

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 10/049,456
Attorney Docket Q68463
August 31, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A device for collection of a fluid sample, comprising a barrel having an opening at one end thereof, a plunger operable axially within the barrel, said barrel and said plunger defining a fluid chamber having a volume which varies on axial movement of the plunger within the barrel, and a flexible, hollow, elongate catheter extending from the fluid chamber through said opening in the barrel, said catheter being in operative engagement with said plunger for axial movement to extend and retract the catheter within respect to the barrel on axial movement of the plunger, and said catheter being in fluid communication with the fluid chamber to provide a fluid flow path to and from the fluid chamber through the hollow catheter.

24. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 23, wherein said catheter extends into a chamber in the plunger which is in fluid communication with said fluid chamber.

25. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 23, wherein one end of said catheter is attached to said plunger and said catheter is provided with perforations in the wall thereof at or near the end thereof attached to the plunger for fluid communication with said fluid chamber.

26. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 23, wherein one end of said catheter is attached to said plunger and the end of said catheter remote from the plunger is sealed, and the catheter is provided with perforations in the wall thereof at or near the sealed end for passage of fluid in and out of the hollow catheter.

27. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 23, further comprising a filter located in the fluid flow path to and from the fluid chamber through the hollow catheter.

28. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 27, wherein the filter is adapted to substantially remove cells and cellular debris from a fluid in said fluid flow path.

29. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 27, wherein the filter is located in the hollow catheter.

30. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 27, wherein the filter is located in the plunger.

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31. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 27, wherein the filter is located in the barrel.

32. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 23, further comprising a ~~coil spring, pneumatic cushion or other~~ return device located between the barrel and the plunger of the device.

33. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 23, further comprising means ~~to rotate~~for rotating the plunger on axial movement of the plunger within the barrel of the device.

34. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 33, wherein said means to rotate is adapted ~~to rotate~~for rotating the plunger from 90° to 360° on full axial movement of the plunger within the barrel.

35. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 23, further comprising means for ~~collection of~~collecting a sample of cells or cellular debris, said means being located on said barrel at or adjacent to said opening at one end thereof.

36. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 35 wherein said means for collecting a sample of cells or cellular debris comprises a brush or brush-like device.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for collection of a fluid sample from an internal cavity of a mammal, said method comprising the steps of:

- (i) locating the distal end of a flexible, hollow, elongate catheter at ~~the~~ an opening of the internal cavity;
- (ii) penetrating the internal cavity by moving the catheter into the cavity while simultaneously passing wash fluid through the hollow catheter to wash at least a portion of the surface of the internal cavity; and
- (iii) subsequently retracting the catheter from the cavity while simultaneously collecting a fluid sample by aspirating the wash fluid through the hollow catheter.

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein the mammal is a human.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 38, wherein the internal cavity is the uterus of a human female, and the fluid sample is a uterine wash sample.

40. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 37, comprising the further step of filtering the fluid sample to substantially remove cells and cellular debris from the fluid sample.

41. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein a sample of cells or cellular debris is simultaneously collected at the opening of the internal cavity.

42. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 41, wherein the sample is a sample of ~~ecto-and/or endo-cervical~~ at least one of extocervical or endocervical cells.

43. (Currently Amended) A method for collection of a fluid sample from an internal cavity of a mammal, comprising a device for collection of a fluid sample, comprising

(i) providing a barrel having an opening at one end thereof, a plunger operable axially within the barrel, said barrel and said plunger defining a fluid chamber having a volume which varies on axial movement of the plunger within the barrel, and a flexible, hollow, elongate catheter extending from the fluid chamber through said opening in the barrel, said catheter being in operative engagement with said plunger for axial movement to extend and retract the catheter within respect to the barrel on axial movement of the plunger, and said catheter being in fluid communication with the fluid chamber to provide a fluid flow path to and from the fluid chamber through the hollow catheter,

~~said method comprising the steps of:~~

(i)(ii) locating the distal end of a flexible, hollow, elongate catheter at the opening of the internal cavity;

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~~(ii)~~(iii) penetrating the internal cavity by moving the catheter into the cavity while simultaneously passing wash fluid through the hollow catheter to wash at least a portion of the surface of the internal cavity; and

~~(iii)~~(iv) subsequently retracting the catheter from the cavity while simultaneously collecting a fluid sample by aspirating the wash fluid through the hollow catheter.

44. (New) A device according to Claim 32, wherein the return device is a coil spring located between the barrel and the plunger of the device.